

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. The Examiner has restricted examination of claims 1-37 in this application. Specifically, the Examiner restricted claims 1-21 to Group I as being drawn to methods of installing a seal, and the Examiner restricted claims 22-37 to Group II as being drawn to bearing assemblies.

Although Applicant does not necessarily agree with the Examiner's reasons for restriction, Applicant elects to prosecute claims 1-21 of Group I.

Claims 22-37 have been canceled by the present Response for possible inclusion in a divisional filing. New claims 38-40 have been added and relate to assemblies made by the methods recited in the pending independent claims.

If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Date: 12/5/2002

Respectfully submitted,

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Serial no. 09/966,487
Response to Office Action mailed on November 7, 2002
Page 3

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

The following claims have been added.

38. (New) A bearing assembly made by the method of claim 1.
39. (New) A bearing assembly made by the method of claim 8.
40. (New) A bearing assembly made by the method of claim 15.

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